

UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION  
SAN FRANCISCO  
1915

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE  
PANAMA CANAL

A PICTORIAL REVIEW OF THE EXPOSITION'S PROGRESS TO MARCH 15, 1913.

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McKim, Mead & White, New York  
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Henry Bacon, New York

### *Associate Architects*

Arthur Brown, Jr. San Francisco

G. Albert Lansburgh, San Francisco

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1915

# PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

AT THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FEBRUARY TWENTIETH TO DECEMBER FOURTH

1915

BY AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE

## PANAMA CANAL





View of Exposition site showing Golden Gate in the distance





Charles C. Moore, President of the Panama-Pacific  
International Exposition



Frederick J. V. Skiff, Director-in-Chief of the Panama-Pacific  
International Exposition



The public meeting in San Francisco, April 28, 1910, when \$4,089,000 was *subscribed within two hours* to the capital stock of the 1915 Exposition. Through subsequent subscriptions and pledges this sum was increased to \$7,500,000. With the \$5,000,000 appropriated by the State of California and the \$5,000,000 donated by the Municipality of San Francisco, the total fund available for use of the Exposition management is \$17,500,000. In addition, the Counties of California are raising over \$2,000,000 by special tax for their individual participation. It is expected that [the grand total of expenditure, including foreign, state and private exhibitors, will approximate \$50,000,000.



Sixty-first Congress of the United States of America;

At the Third Session,

Began and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the fifth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and ten.

JOINT RESOLUTION

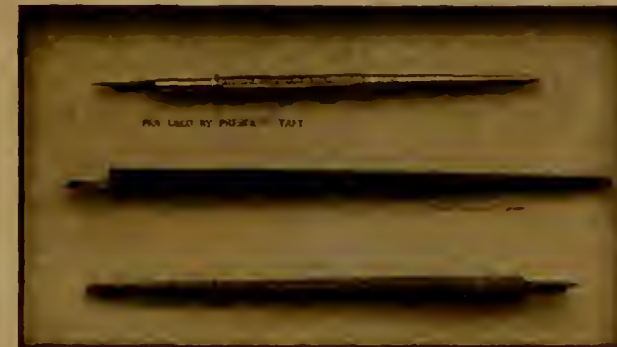
Authorizing the President to invite foreign countries to participate in the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in nineteen hundred and fifteen, at San Francisco, California.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever it shall be shown to the satisfaction of the President of the United States that a suitable site has been selected, and that the sum of not less than fifteen millions dollars will be available to enable the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Company, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California, for the purpose of inaugurating, carrying forward, and holding an exposition at the city and county of San Francisco, California, on or about the first day of January, nineteen hundred and fifteen, to celebrate the completion and opening of the Panama Canal, and also the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the Pacific Ocean, the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, authorized and respectfully requested, by proclamation or in such manner as he may deem proper, to invite all foreign countries and nations to such projected exposition, with a request that they participate therein.

*J. C. McLaughlin*  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

*Wm. P. Fry*  
Vice-President of the United States and  
President of the Senate

*Approved*  
*Wm. P. Fry* December 17, 1911.



The President of the United States signing Joint Resolution, authorizing holding of the Panama Canal celebration at San Francisco in 1915





The President of the United States (William Howard Taft) breaking ground for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in the presence of one hundred thousand people October 14, 1911



**By the President of the United States of America,**

**A Proclamation.**

**Whereas**, in conformity with the conditions and requirements of the Joint Resolution of Congress approved February 15, 1911, "Authorizing the President to invite foreign countries to participate in the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in nineteen hundred and fifteen, at San Francisco, California", satisfactory proof has been presented to me that a suitable site has been selected for the said Exposition and that the sum of not less than fifteen million dollars will be available to enable the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Company, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California, for the purpose of inaugurating, carrying forward, and holding an exposition at the City of San Francisco, California, in the year nineteen hundred and fifteen, to celebrate the completion and opening of the Panama Canal;

**Now, Therefore, I, William Howard Taft,**

President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by said Joint Resolution, do hereby declare and proclaim that such International Exposition will be opened in the year nineteen hundred and fifteen, in the City of San Francisco, in the State of California: And, in the name of the Government and of the people of the United States of America, I do hereby invite all the nations of the earth to take part in the commemoration of an event of great interest and importance to the world by appointing representatives to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition and sending thereto such exhibits as will most fitly and fully illustrate their resources, their industries, and their progress in civilization.

In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.



Done at the City of Washington this second day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and thirty-sixth.

*W. H. Taft*

By the President:  
*Philander C. Thompson*  
Secretary of State.

Proclamation issued by the President of the United States inviting  
all Nations to participate in the Universal Exposition  
at San Francisco in 1915



Aviated view of the Panama Canal





View of Culebra Cut in the Panama Canal





Gatun Upper Locks in the Panama Canal, showing the construction of three sets of gates





Pedro Miguel Locks in the Panama Canal, showing south end of east chamber and construction of safety and lower gates

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1912.

WHEREAS, by virtue of a joint resolution approved February 15, 1911, the President of the United States was authorized and requested by proclamation, or in such manner as he might deem proper, to invite all foreign countries and nations to participate in the Panama-Pacific International Exposition to be held in the City of San Francisco, California, in 1915 for the purpose of inaugurating, carrying forward and holding an exposition to celebrate the completion and opening of the Panama Canal;

AND WHEREAS, said proclamation was issued on the second day of February, 1912;

AND WHEREAS, said Panama-Pacific International Exposition Company has appointed a Special Commission to visit the several countries of Europe for the purpose of supporting the invitation heretofore issued:

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby constitute and appoint said Special Commission for the purpose aforesaid, said Commission to be constituted as follows:

John Hays Hammond, President;  
Reuben Brooks Hale;  
William T. Seddon;  
Rear Admiral Sidney A. Staunton, U.S.N.;  
Brigadier General Clarence R. Edwards, U.S.A.

And any courtesies which may be extended to this Commission will be appreciated by the Government of the United States.



Credentials of the Commission Extraordinary to Europe,  
appointed by the President of the United States





Reuben Brooks Hale, Vice-President of the  
Panama-Pacific International  
Exposition



John Hays Hammond, President of the Commission  
Extraordinary to Europe



William T. Sesnon, President of the San  
Francisco Chamber of Commerce



Rear-Admiral Sidney A. Staunton  
United States Navy

Members of the Commission Extraordinary to Europe, appointed by the President of the United States. The months of May and June, 1912, were occupied by this important Commission in visiting the capitals of the following fifteen European countries, in the order named, where audiences and conferences were held with their Monarchs, Presidents and Ministries: England, Germany, Russia, Austria, Hungary, Italy, France, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands.

Mr. Hale became President of the Commission upon Mr. Hammond's return to America at the conclusion of the visit to Paris on May 30, 1912.



Brigadier-General Clarence R. Edwards  
United States Army



Governor Oswald West dedicating the first State site for Oregon March 14, 1912





Architects, Carrere & Hastings, New York  
Tower of the Administration Building



Governor Tasker L. Oddie, of Nevada, taking possession of  
Nevada's site March 14, 1912





Perspective study of California Counties' Building





Governor Edwin L. Norris receiving the deed for Montana's site March 22, 1912





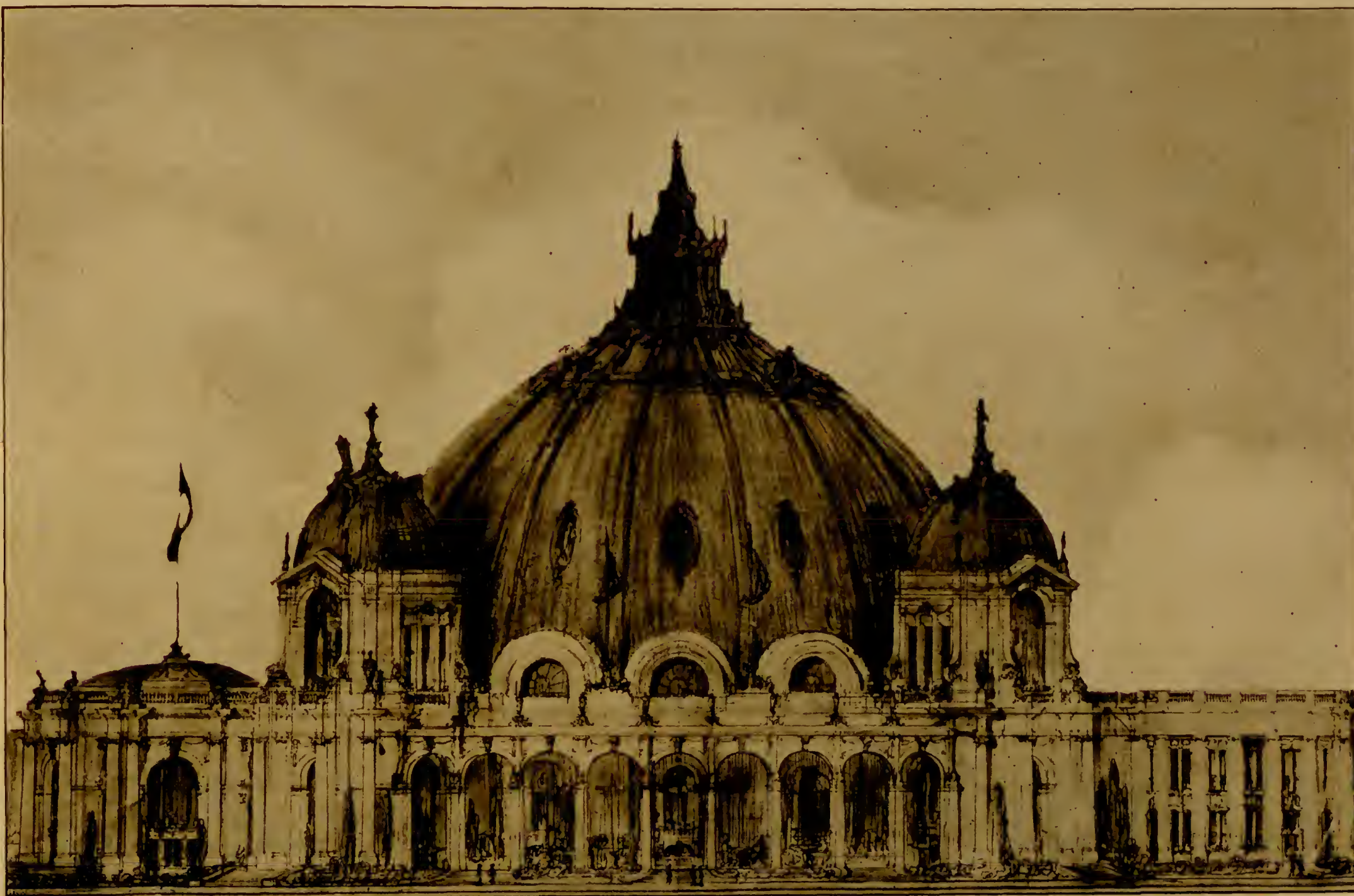
Palace of Fine Arts

Architect, B. R. Maybeck, San Francisco



Governor M. E. Hay dedicating Washington State's site March 22, 1912





Festival Hall

Architect, Robert Farquhar, Los Angeles



Governor J. H. Hawley planting the flag on Idaho's site March 22, 1912





East axis in the Court of Sun and Stars

Architects, McKim, Mead & White, New York



Governor William Spry accepting the deed for Utah's site March 22, 1912





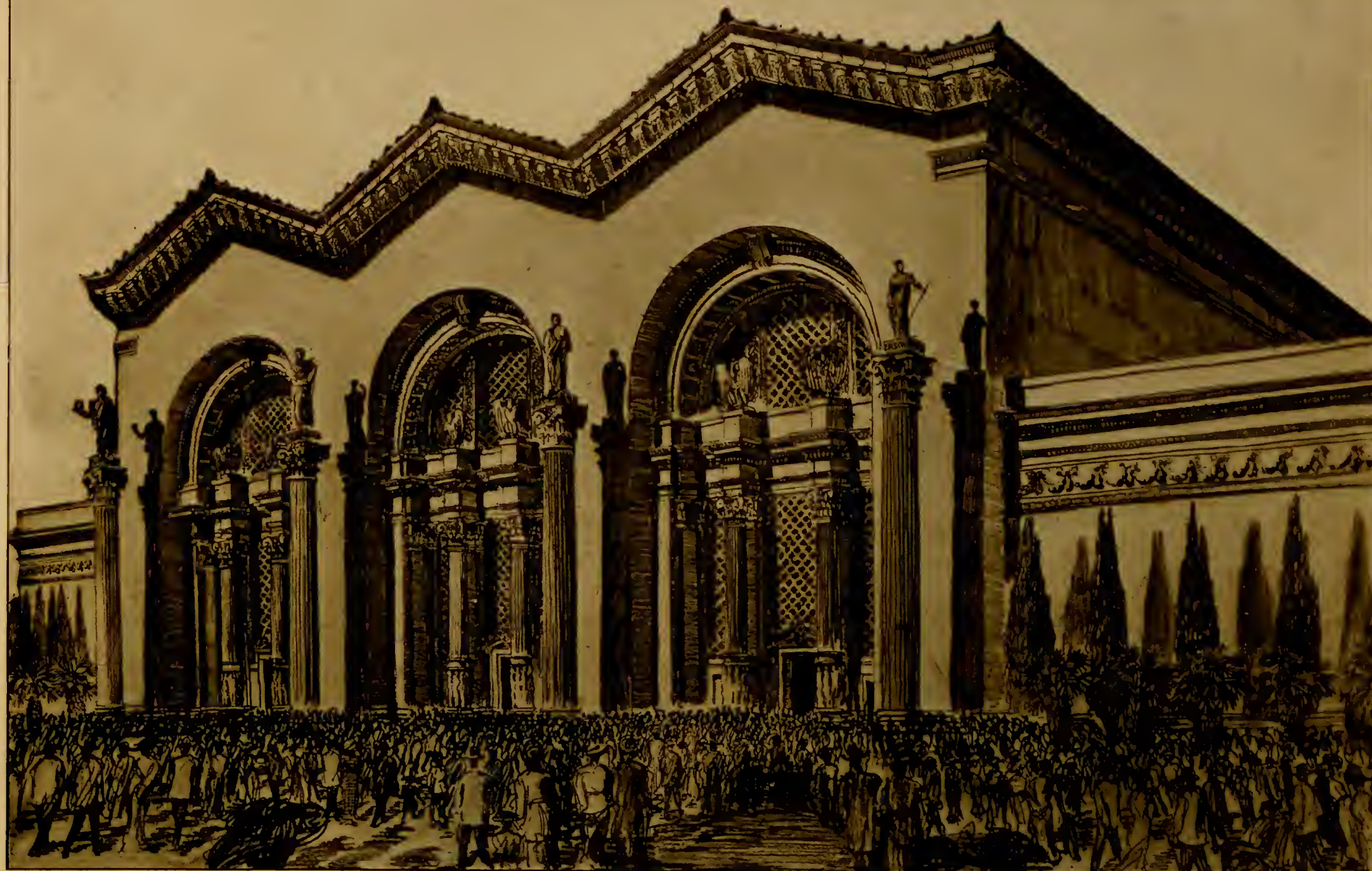
Looking north in the grand central Court of Sun and Stars

Architects, McKim, Mead & White, New York



Governor R. S. Vessey dedicating South Dakota's site March 30, 1912





Palace of Machinery

Architects, Ward & Blohme, San Francisco





Commissioners M. F. Lowenstein and W. A. Durham dedicating the Philippines' site





Niche in the Court of Four Seasons

Architect, Henry Bacon, New York





Missouri's site dedication by Commissioner J. E. Black April 5, 1912





Court of Palms

Architect, George W. Kelham, San Francisco





Commissioner Peter Jansen dedicating Nebraska's site May 7, 1912









Review of troops at the Presidio in honor of Secretary of State Knox

By reason of the national character and international significance of the 1915 Exposition these military displays form part of all events on the Exposition Grounds, such as the dedication of Foreign and State building sites and other important ceremonies





Architect, Louis Christian Mullgardt, San Francisco  
Tower and Cascade of Festival Court



Secretary of State Knox participating in Hawaii's site dedication May 17, 1912





Commissioner H. D. Newcomb receiving the deed for Kentucky's site June 16, 1912





Commissioners James McLaren White and Martin B. Bailey dedicating Illinois' site June 22, 1912





Governor John K. Tener receives the deed for Pennsylvania's site July 5, 1912



Commissioner Eugene Brady O'Neil dedicates Arizona's site July 5, 1912



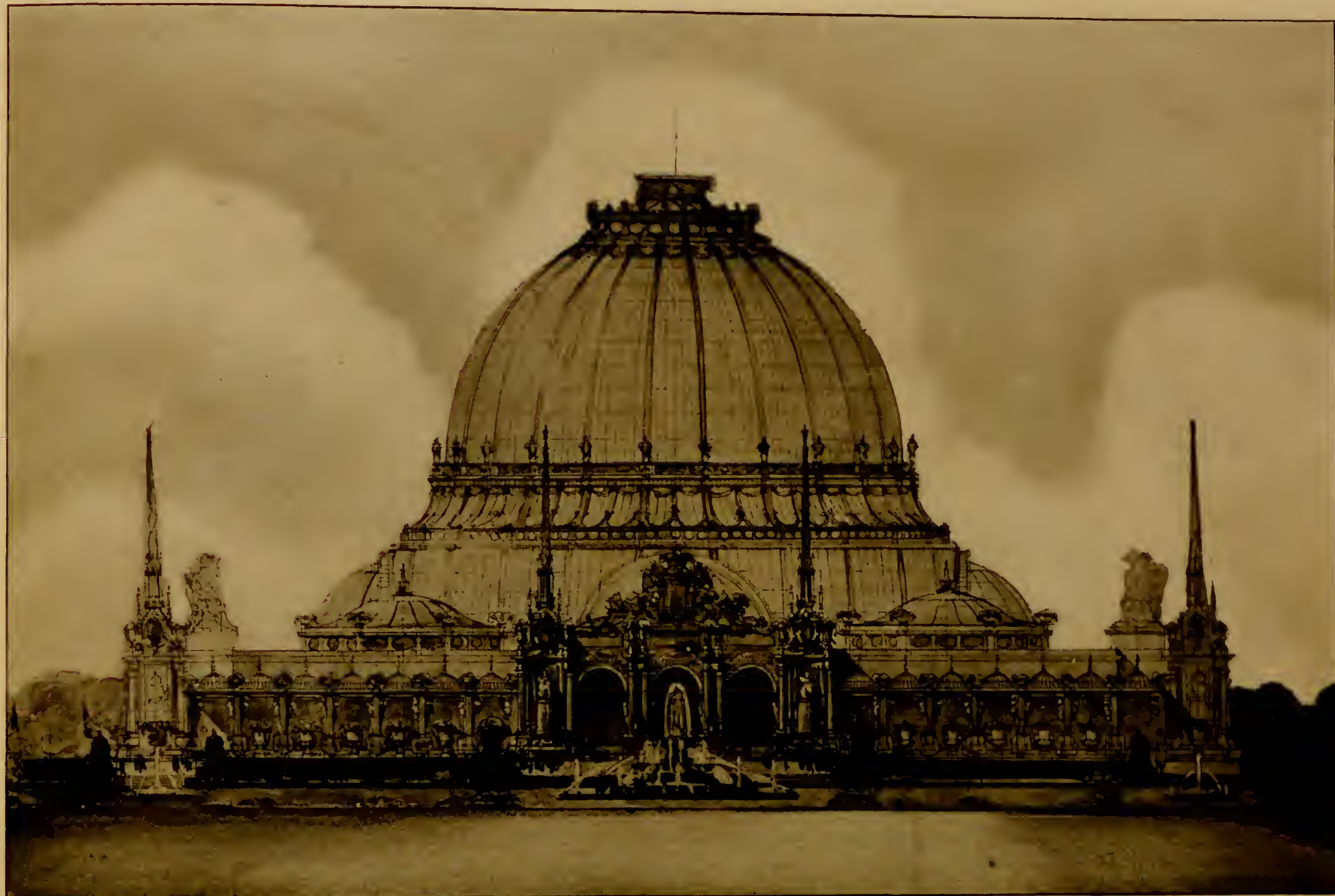


Japanese Commissioners dedicate the first foreign site on Exposition grounds September 18, 1912



Governor Judson Harmon reviewing troops on occasion of Ohio's site dedication ceremonies October 10, 1912





Palace of Horticulture

Architects, Bakewell & Brown, San Francisco



Governor Thomas R. Marshall dedicating Indiana's site October 22, 1912





Chinese Commissioners reviewing troops during dedication ceremonies for China's site October 24, 1912





Commissioner John Hammar dedicating Sweden's site November 12, 1912





Minister J. Batalha de Freitas dedicating a site for Portugal's participation November 25, 1912





Commissioners Fred P. Crosscup and G. O. Nagle dedicate West Virginia's site November 29, 1912





Commissioner Norman E. Mack of New York accepts deed for the Empire State November 29, 1912





Minister J. Loudon dedicates a site for the Netherlands December 11, 1912





Commissioner Cal. E. Stone dedicates a site for Minnesota December 11, 1912



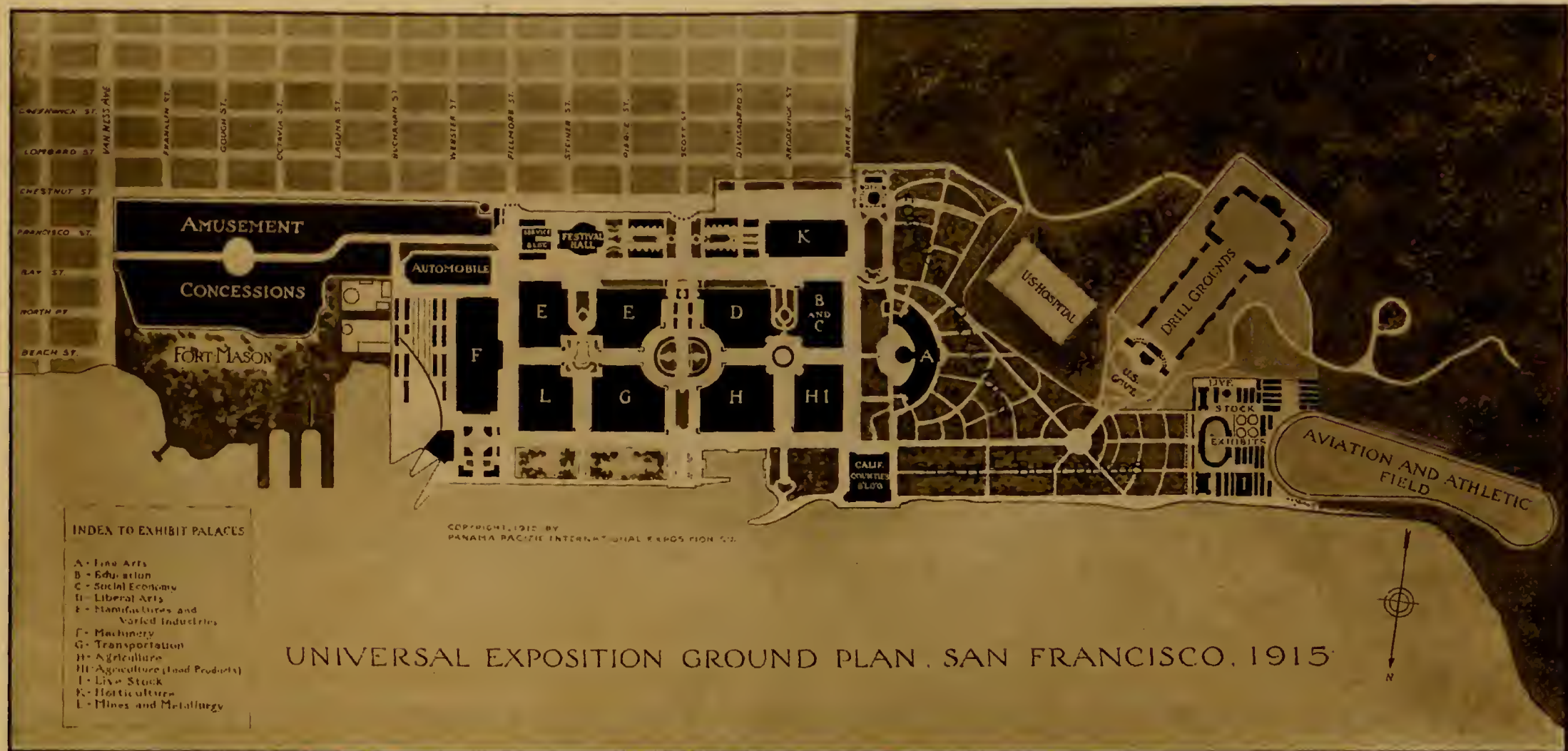
Commissioner Peter H. Corr receives deed for Massachusetts' site January 30, 1913





Minister C. Brun receives deed to Denmark's site March 15, 1913





Ground plan of Exposition





Birdseye view of the Universal Exposition of 1915, showing Alcatraz Island and San Francisco Bay





United States Battleship Fleet anchored in San Francisco Bay off the Exposition site



# *Panama - Pacific International Exposition*

## *San Francisco, 1915*

This Universal Exposition at San Francisco in 1915 is a distinctly National undertaking, determined upon by the Congress of the United States, and designated by the President of the United States, for the purpose of celebrating the opening of the Panama Canal, a National accomplishment that importantly affects the entire world.

In assuming the burden and expense of this mammoth celebration in response to the call of the President and Congress, the people of California are discharging an important public duty and executing a National trust, the accruing benefits of which will be shared by every State in the Union and by the entire citizenship of the Nation.

While this great inter-hemisphere waterway is a National project, it is nevertheless a World's asset, and the celebration of its opening will be participated in by all countries and all peoples. The Exposition will constitute an international concourse of tremendous significance in its effect upon the natural productivity and commercial activity of all countries, and of the United States in particular.

*Up to March 15, 1913, twenty-six Foreign Countries and thirty-five States of the United States had officially accepted the invitation of the President of the United States to take part in this great Universal Celebration.*

